

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

011400Z Jun 05

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ITCE-00
	EB-00	EXME-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	JUSE-00	L-00	AC-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-00
	OIC-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	OPIC-01	EPAU-00	PM-00	GIWI-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00	EPAE-00
	PMB-00	G-00	SAS-00	/001W			

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1708
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 000877

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/C, AF/EPS AND OES/ENV LEE
PLEASE ALSO PASS TO FWS AT DEPT. INTERIOR
ADDIS FOR REO
ABIDJAN ALSO FOR WARP REO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [BAID](#) [CD](#)

SUBJECT: WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING AND POACHING PATTERNS IN CHAD

1. Begin Summary. Recent evidence of wildlife traf-ficking in Chad two distinct fronts: Gulf State Arab hunters/falconers engaging in sp in northern Chad and Sudanese poachers complicit with poor Chadian hu south-central regions. The combined toll of these activities on Chad remaining mammal populations is very worrying, as is the collusion of government officials with poachers. End Summary.

2. REO reviewed dozens of press items together with substantial docu from APROCOFF, a local university-based NGO active in anti-poaching e The reports are clear: wildlife trafficking networks show considerabl sophistication in transporting Chadian wildlife to markets in North A the Mideast and pose a major long-term threat to Chad's biodiversity.

Saudi Princes, All Terrain Vehicles and Visas for Falconers

3. There is a well-established network of Arab hunters who practice forms of hunting in Chad. Hunters from as far away as Saudi Arabia a United Arab Emirates arrive in unscheduled charter planes, obtain irr airport visas on arrival, and move about in all-terrain vehicles in t northern regions. Hunters often use vehicles to chase antelope to ex before bagging them. Alternatively, Saudi visitors use imported falc target bustards (endangered, large birds of the genus Ardeotis) in or export their dried, uncured skins, which are reputed to have aphrodis properties.

4. There is widespread local collusion with Arab hunters. Deep pock buy local villagers' and businessmen's willingness to provide support vehicles. A dubious Arab "charity NGO" was even found involved in fa hunting operations and transport in late 2004. In another case, a Sa allegedly handed over ten million CFA (USD 20,000) for access to an " hunting zone and vehicle support. The ease with which wealthy foreign visas at the airport shows the collusion of Chadian customs and secur officials. APROCOFF and local press sources also report on recent ca hunters trying to transport live gazelles to Libya, further implicati authorities in trafficking activities. Names of influential Chadian o involved in facilitating this recurrent poaching have appeared in APR releases but no sanctions have yet occurred and the practice continue

Sudanese Poachers, Automatic Weapons and Local Intermediaries

5. South-central Chad, in particular the Zakouma National Park and i zone, is a key refuge for elephants in Chad. It is this area that is by well-armed Sudanese hunters, who pay local Chadian villagers to hu elephants in sophisticated poaching networks. Chadian nomads serve a intermediaries, transporting tusks to the Sudanese border by horsebac camelback. The town of Geneina in west-central Sudan is thought to b the principal importation points where poached ivory is taken, before buyers in N. Africa and the Gulf region.

6. Park wardens exercise some control within Zakouma itself, but not vast buffer zone beyond it. Even within the park, however, conflicts poachers have resulted in the deaths of several Chadian park wardens. temptation of poaching dividends for local populations should not be underestimated given the few cash-generating alternatives that exist. Tourism is not well-developed or as lucrative as it could potentially principally because of security concerns and poor road/air access to

17. Comment: REO suggests two areas of opportunity for the USG to have impact on reducing poaching activities in Chad. Diplomatic pressure brought to bear on the Presidency, Ministry of Environment, airport authorities, when specific cases come to light. This would serve both the GOC that donors are concerned with the situation, and to remind Chad's obligations under international conventions that protect endangered migratory species. As a complement to this, prior USG material support (including anti-poaching communications equipment and surveillance technology) should be renewed. REO and AmEmbassy/Chad intend to pursue areas where strategic USG support could give conservationists the upper hand in protecting remaining wildlife populations.

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